

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 305511 TOSEC 250102

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BELGRADE 6843 ACTION SECSTATE 31 DEC 75

QUOTE

S E C R E T BELGRADE 6843

NODIS

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR OVIP YO CU AO UR

SUBJ: ANGOLAN DEMARCHE; TITO CUBA TRIP

REF: A) BELGRADE 6773 B) BELGRADE 6842 C) BELGRADE 6792

1. RECEIVED TODAY FROM FSFA ASST SECRETARY FOR AFRICA
SOUTH OF SAHARA OSTOJIC GOY NOTE (BEING SENT SEPTTEL)
REJECTING OUR DEMARCHE ON ANGOLA QUESTION THAT I
HAD DELIVERED LAST WEEK (REF A). IN LONG, SOMETIMES
RAMBLING AND PERSONAL COMMENT AFTER READING NOTE,
OSTOJIC SAID LANGUAGE HAS QTE SURPRISED UNQTE GOY
AND WAS STRONGEST SINCE SOVIET DEMARCHES DURING COLD
WAR ERA. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS I DID NOT DISCUSS NUMBERS
OF SOVIET OVERFLIGHTS, BUT REITERATED OUR DEEP CONCERN

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ABOUT SOVIET AND CUBAN PUPPET INVOLVEMENT AND

PUZZLING LACK OF GOY OPPOSITION TO SOVIET NAKED
MILITARY INTERVENTIONISM IN AFRICA.

2. REPLYING TO QUESTION ABOUT TITO'S CUBA TRIP PLANS, OSTOJIC SAID IT STILL ON FOR JANUARY, MENTIONING CUBA AND MEXICO AS SITES. I REPEATED THAT MY GOVERNMENT INTERESTED IN KNOWING IF TITO HAD ANY CONSTRUCTIVE PLANS OR IDEAS TO HELP AMERIORATE WHAT WE CONSIDERED A DANGEROUS SITUATION. OSTOJIC ANSWERED SAYING TITO INFORMED OF USG VIEWS AND THESE WOULD BE QTE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT UNQTE. HE INDICATED GOY WAITING FOR OAU SUMMIT BEFORE CONSIDERING FURTHER STEPS OR POSITIONS. (COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF PRESS LINE BEING TAKEN HERE - SEE REF C--WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC. INDEED, IT APPEARS AS IF GOY HAS LEAKED TO CORRESPONDENTS AND DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY LANGUAGE OF OUR NOTE. OSTOJIC INDICATED TO ME OBLIQUELY THAT PRESSURE IS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.)

3. ON SITUATION IN ANGOLA ITSELF, OSTOJIC ASKED WHETHER US GIVING AID. I REPLIED WE HAD NOT ONE SINGLE MILITARY PERSON IN ANGOLA, IN CONTRAST TO SOVIETS AND CUBANS. I SAID WE NOW COUNTED 7500 CUBANS, TO WHICH OSTOJIC AFFIRMED GOY QTE KNEW THERE WERE SOME UNQTE BUT WAS UNIFORMED AS TO NUMBERS. HE THEN INTERJECTED THAT THERE WERE QTE OTHERS UNQTE, MEANING SOUTH AFRICANS, AND I SAID USG OPPOSED TO ALL FOREIGN MILITARY INTERVENTION.

4. I WAS STRUCK DURING CALL BY THREE POINTS. FIRST SENSITIVITY OF GOY TO STRENGTH OF LANGUAGE OF OUR DEMARCHE AND ITS IMPLIED REFERENCE TO THEIR INDEPENDENCE. OSTOJIC VIRTUALLY REHASHED ENTIRE YUGOSLAV WARTIME AND POST-WAR EXPERIENCE IN REAFFIRMING THEIR DEDICATION TO INDEPENDENCE. SECOND, WHOLE TENOR OF RESPONSE GEARED TOWARD AVOIDANCE OF SLIPPAGE IN FRIENDLY GOY-US BILATERALS. AGAIN, I GOT A REVIEW OF 1974 AND 1975 PROGRESS ON THIS AND THE HOPE THAT OUR NOTE WOULD NOT QTE MARK DIFFICULTIES IN BILATERAL RELATIONS AT THIS YEAR END UNQTE. THIRD, OSTOJIC ONLY
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RELUCTANTLY WOULD TALK ABOUT ANGOLA PER SE;
HE KEPT SAYING THERE WOULD BE TIME TO SETTLE
THE PROBLEM; THAT THERE WERE DIFFERENCES IN SUPERPOWER
AND SMALL POWER MENTALITIES ON SUCH A PROBLEM.
EVEN IN CLOSING MEETING, OSTOJIC RETURNED TO BILATERAL
RELATIONS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT 1976 WOULD SEE
FURTHERANCE OF OUR GOOD RELATIONS. I TOLD HIM USG
COULDN'T UNDERSTAND HOW GOY, CONTRARY TO TRADITIONAL

POLICY OF NON-INTERVENTION, COULD SUPPORT SOVIET
EFFORT TO MILITARILY ASSERT HEGEMONY ANYWHERE IN
THE WORLD, AND PARTICULARLY AFRICA.
SILBERMAN

UNQUOTE ROBINSON

SECRET

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